

we will in fact secure our borders, and this may mean that we will not have the opportunity to hire cheap labor or recruit people into a political party as new voters. But nonetheless, it has to be done, along with all of the other things that have been outlined by the President, with which I agree and for which I commend him. The border must be secured.

I ask, no, I beg the President of the United States to use his power, to use his executive authority to do just that: protect our borders; order the military to the border, allow us to use the expertise and the technology and the manpower we have available to us on our first line of defense.

I mentioned that I went recently to the Mexican border, but I also shortly thereafter went to the Canadian border, a little town called Bonner's Ferry, Idaho, where I witnessed a very interesting activity. At the time I got there, there were 100 Marines stationed there just to see whether or not they could in fact coordinate their activities and help the Border Patrol and the U.S. Forest Service and the customs agency control the northern border because I assure Members, although I have spent a great deal of time talking about the southern borders, I assure Members that the problems are just as large on the northern borders.

There are over 20,000 Muslims living in Calgary, Canada, which brings into the United States component parts of methamphetamines. They are sold and the proceeds go back to the Muslim groups in Canada, and the money is used to finance terrorist activities throughout the world.

Osama bin Laden, because of Canada's peculiar process of establishing who is or is not a refugee, Osama bin Laden could land in Ontario, claim he is Omar the tent maker, not show any identification, and walk immediately into Canadian society, and, of course, shortly thereafter walk unfettered probably into the United States.

The problems up there are significant. So there are 100 Marines, and I do not know the genesis of the stationing of these people on that border. I do not know if it was part of a larger strategy or not, but they were using three UAVs, unmanned aerial vehicles, more often commonly referred to as drones, and a couple of radar stations that were to help identify people coming across that border illegally. It worked. The Marines told me that it was the best training they had ever received because it was real time, real bad guys, and very difficult terrain.

We need the resources of the military. We do not have to put people arm in arm along 4,000 or 5,000 miles of border. We have the technology to aid in this. I saw it with my own eyes. It can work. We can make our borders very secure, not perfect but much more difficult to cross illegally than is presently the case. We can do it. The only thing we do not have is the will to do it.

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We unfortunately create a facade, a Potemkin Village. Prince Potemkin used to put up facades along the villages in his area and when Catherine the Great would sail down the river, she would see these beautiful villages. But behind these facades, of course, it was abject poverty. That is where the phrase Potemkin Village comes from. In a way that is what we have created or we have tried to create on the borders. We have increased the number of border patrol. We have established something called smart borders. We have told Americans that we are doing what is necessary to defend our borders, but it is nothing more than the creation of a Potemkin Village along the borders. They are just facades. They are not true defense mechanisms. Because what we are trying to do is to pretend to the American people that we are taking our responsibility of border defense seriously while at the same time assuring that people can come through illegally in order to, quote, take the jobs that no one else will take and in order to increase the ranks of political parties in the United States that benefit as a result of massive immigration, one particular political party, of course, the Democratic party, and the fear that if we actually got tough on the borders, there would be a political reaction. And there would be certainly outcries by immigration advocacy groups, especially immigration lawyers. They would raise Cain.

But is our responsibility here to pander to those political extremists? Or is our responsibility to protect and defend the people and the property of the United States of America? Again what a strange world we live in, whereby we can be talking about going off to war, recognizing all of the danger that that entails for the people we are sending but also for the people who are here, the people who remain, and not do anything to protect us. What an amazing situation.

Mr. Speaker, I hope and pray that our words, our admonitions, our concerns will be heeded by our other colleagues and by the administration. The stakes are so high, the risks are so great that we cannot possibly avoid doing what is right even at our own political peril should that be the case which, as I say, I do not believe for a moment would happen, but even if it did, that is what is required of us here, to do the right thing, even if it is politically or culturally problematic.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MASCARA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, September 10 and 11 on account of personal reasons.

Ms. WATERS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and September 10 on account of business in the district.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of activities in the district.

Mr. WELLER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and until noon September 10 on account of medical reasons.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness in the family.

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and September 10 on account of congressional business.

Mr. WAMP (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of family reasons.

Mrs. ROUKEMA (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SNYDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PENCE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. NORTHUP, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, September 12.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, September 10.

The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 351. An act to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the quantity of mercury in the environment by limiting the use of mercury fever thermometers and improving the collection and proper management of